

# Aboriginal Health Research News

## Message from Dr. Malcolm King, IAPH Scientific Director



Greetings from sunny Coast Salish territory (Vancouver BC), where Spring has arrived and is in full swing. Firstly, I would like to congratulate several researchers on obtaining funding through their respective competi-

tions for a number of Grants and Awards, as listed on page 3. These projects exhibit a direct link to

CIHR priorities and CIHR's signature initiative, *Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples*. In fact, the funding of the following two projects represents a significant milestone, as they are both relevant to the Pathways Initiative in that they relate to two of the four priority areas, namely Diabetes and Tuberculosis.

Stewart Harris' project, titled *Transformation of Indigenous Primary Healthcare Delivery (FORGE AHEAD): Community-driven Innovations and Strategic Scale-up Toolkits*, will develop and evaluate community-driven primary healthcare delivery models that enhance Type 2 diabetes

mellitus management with appropriate access to available services in First Nations communities.

Richard Long's mixed-method, prairie-wide, CIHR- and Health Canada-funded project, titled *Informing the "Strategy against Tuberculosis for First Nations on-Reserve": Evidence from the "Determinants of TB Transmission" Project*, will address what is needed to successfully implement the Health Canada Strategy against Tuberculosis for First Nations on Reserve.

## Community Involvement in CIHR-IAPH Research

In keeping with IAPH's support of community involvement in research, it is encouraging to see much of IAPH's funding approved in March 2013 will support community involvement in research designs and implementation. In Rachel Landy's project, titled *Arts-based HIV/AIDS Education for Aboriginal Youth in Labrador: A community-based participatory action research project*, her research team collaborates with the Labrador Friendship Centre HIV Project, using a community-based participatory action research design incorporating Indigenous methodologies. Community leaders, Elders and youth form a Steering Committee to guide the program being developed through the research.

Vera Caine's project, *Inquiring into HIV prevention and care for pregnant and early parenting women experiencing homelessness*, uses a community-based research approach to provide a conceptual framework to ensure that research priorities meet the needs of the community.

Two Dene communities in Manitoba are actively involved in Linda Larcombe's project, *A New Vision: Dene First Nations Perspectives on Healthy Housing*. The communities will take stock of their housing in light of Canada's Economic Action Plan and envision culturally relevant housing that promotes health equity, mental health, and a decreased burden of chronic and infectious diseases.

Stewart Harris' project, *Transformation of Indigenous Primary Healthcare Delivery (FORGE AHEAD): Community-driven Innovations and Strategic Scale-up Toolkits*, honors and reflects the communities' involvement as full partners; measuring community and healthcare provider readiness to change, supporting and integrating prevention activities within the community, developing community capacity for quality improvement activities and evaluating community-driven strategies to improve the quality of diabetes care.



*Innovation in Community-based Primary Healthcare Supporting Transformation in the Health of First Nations and Rural/remote Manitoba Communities: iPHIT*, led by Alan Katz, engages community members for their perspectives on their health and needs, then works with the participating communities and Elders advisory groups to propose innovative local models of care that can improve the health of the communities.

We look forward to seeing how these projects develop in the coming months.



## Highlighting Aboriginal Researchers Doing Aboriginal Research

Carol Hopkins, of Delaware First Nation, is the Executive Director of the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF) and has successfully acquired CIHR-IAPH funding on several occasions, either as Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator. Carol's research frequently incorporates Knowledge Translation and Exchange by way of fostering cultural competency through avenues such as Research Forums, as in her project *Many Cultural Strands - One Basket / National Research Forum*, which advanced respect for community research priorities and Indigenous knowledge, values and cultures through building relationships, consensus and engagement between Aboriginal organizations and the Research community. Carol's project titled *Honouring Our Strengths: Indigenous Culture as Intervention in Addictions Treatment* evaluates the effectiveness of First Nations culture as a health intervention in alcohol and drug treatment, as it is well recognized to be vital for client healing at National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) and Youth Solvent Addiction Program (YSAP) treatment centres. Ultimately, health programming and policy for Indigenous youth and adults in drug and alcohol treatment in Canada will improve through exploration and application of Aboriginal Ways of Knowing. Carol's research also incorporates an international lens, such as in the

project *Stigma and Discrimination of Indigenous Youth with Mental Health and/or Substance Use*, where the project develops new knowledge and capacity to address mental health and substance use problems in Indigenous youth, with a goal of expanding this work into an international project for Canada, New Zealand and Australia that builds on a current initiative to develop a research program on treatment of solvent abuse among Indigenous youth in Canada, United States, Mexico and Australia.

Renée Masching is the Research and Policy Manager at the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network and has also received CIHR-IAPH funding for a number of projects. Whether as Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator, Renée's work often originates from community involvement and includes Knowledge Translation and Exchange in reaching culturally-appropriate results. As well, many of Renée's projects fully engage Aboriginal youth, women and Elders in research direction, development and analysis – reflecting the concepts of Two-Eyed Seeing and Aboriginal Ways of Knowing. For instance, the project titled *Young Eagles Soar: Aboriginal Youth Leaders in Community Based Research* is a youth-driven catalyst initiative which examines research priorities related to HIV peer education as identified by Aboriginal youth, and further develops leadership roles for Aboriginal youth

to inform and engage in future research regarding culturally specific HIV education for Aboriginal youth. As much of Renée's work focuses on Aboriginal peoples living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, the research regularly examines the inadequacies of Western methods of care and service as applied to Aboriginal populations. The project *Stable Homes, Strong Families: Housing and Health for Aboriginal Peoples Living with HIV and AIDS* identifies and addresses gaps in housing options to form a culturally appropriate response to Aboriginal housing needs in the context of HIV. Somewhat similarly, *Family Matters: Informing a family-based model of care with Aboriginal families affected by HIV* engages Aboriginal families affected by HIV to identify Aboriginal-specific recommended solutions toward the development of programmatic intervention models that address and support all members of a family affected by HIV.



## Research to Action: Aboriginal Health Research to Aboriginal Health Practice

On April 10 at the Dr. Peter Centre, as a pre-conference event to the 22nd Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (CAHR 2013) held April 11-14 in Vancouver, IAPH Scientific Director, Malcolm King, attended the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network's (CAAN) screening of a [brief video](#) highlighting the results of their current research project, *Alcohol Use by Aboriginal Persons Living with HIV/AIDS and Its Association with Access to Care and Treatment*. This project exemplifies how Aboriginal people's health research can stem from community-based direction and involvement to develop into methods of care and service delivery rooted in Aboriginal Ways of Knowing.

This research is a prime example of a project undertaken in partnership between two Aboriginal organizations; CAAN and the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF). The success of these organizations in

developing and executing this project will hopefully inspire Pathways research groups like suicide research teams to link up with either CAAN or NNAPF as partners in their research.

This study examines the association between alcohol use and access to services from the perspectives of both Aboriginal persons living with HIV and AIDS (APHAs) and Service Providers (SPs). The findings will be used to better inform health service delivery and guide future research priorities. The research team is comprised of scholars, community-based Peer Research Associates and service delivery people and is guided by Elder Cliff Thomas. The two Peer Research Associates were HIV-positive, street-involved people, who received training throughout the project; a true success story in community involvement, engagement, and capacity building.

The idea for this project originated with a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Catalyst Grant in 2006, and funding to carry it out was secured in 2008 with a CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity Operating Grant through the HIV/AIDS Community-based Research Initiative. A CIHR Dissemination Events grant was awarded in 2013.

"This research has resulted in new knowledge regarding health service delivery and culturally competent care and treatment for APHAs who use alcohol or are perceived to be using alcohol. The policy and practice implications presented in this report can contribute significantly toward increased well-being of APHAs and their communities, improved partnerships between APHAs and non-Aboriginal health care systems and providers, and the growing body of international research involving Indigenous people and HIV and AIDS." (CAAN, 2013)



# Funding Update

IAPH would like to congratulate the researchers who were successful in the following IAPH supported funding opportunities. For more details on the researchers and their funded projects, follow the links provided.

## March 2013 Funding Results

Doctoral Research Award: HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research - Aboriginal Stream (October 2012)

Sean Hillier (Ryerson U), Rachel Landy (Memorial U)

Operating Grant: HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research (October 2012)

Vera Caine (U Alberta), Renée Masching (Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network)

Operating Grant: Population Health Intervention Research (Fall 2012 Competition)

Claire Crooks (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), Linda Larcombe (U Manitoba), Richard Long (U Alberta), Michel Lucas (U Laval)

Team Grant: Community-Based Primary Healthcare (January 2013)

Stewart Harris (Western U), Alan Katz (U Manitoba)

## February 2013 Funding Results

Dissemination Events: Fall 2012 Priority Announcement (First Nations, Inuit, and/or Métis Knowledge Dissemination Activities)

Lola Baydala (U Alberta), Deborah Begoray (U Victoria), Heather Castleden (Dalhousie U), Jo-Ann Episkew (U Regina), Ann Manning (Direct Payment), Nancy Van Styvendale (U Saskatchewan)

Dissemination Events: Fall 2012 Priority Announcement (HIV-AIDS)

Jonathan Angel (Ottawa Hospital Research Institute)

Knowledge Synthesis Grant: Fall 2012 Priority Announcement (Aboriginal Health Knowledge Synthesis)

Margo Greenwood (U Northern BC)

Planning Grants: Fall 2012 Priority Announcement (First Nations, Inuit or Métis Planning Activities)

Malek Batal (U Ottawa), Brenda Cameron (U Alberta), Wendy Hulko (Thompson Rivers U), Mary Macdonald (McGill U), Renée Masching (Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network Vancouver), Jackie Millette (Direct Payment), Nancy Young (Laurentian U)

CIHR Journalism Awards (2012-2013)

Stephanie Law (Direct Payment)

## Funding Opportunities

Dissemination Events: First Nations, Inuit, and/or Métis Knowledge Dissemination Activities

Application Deadline: June 17, 2013

Planning Grants: First Nations Inuit or Métis Planning Activities

Application Deadline: June 17, 2013

## Operating Grant: Population Health Intervention Research

IAPH would like to draw researchers' attention to the Population Health Intervention Research funding opportunity. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support the prompt initiation of population health intervention research on rapidly unfolding programs, policies and resource distribution approaches that have been initiated by others (e.g., policy makers) and have the potential to impact health and health equity at the population level. This funding opportunity will fund population health intervention research applications that are relevant to the *Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples* Signature Initiative. More details on the launch of this funding opportunity will come in the next few months. Stay tuned!

## Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) - Launch of Expression of Interest

CIHR and its partners are pleased to announce the launch of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) Expression of Interest. The CCNA will be the premier research hub for all aspects of research involving neurodegenerative diseases that affect cognition in aging. The CCNA is the Canadian component of CIHR's International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease.

For the CCNA, **IAPH will support research in the within the following:**

**Quality of Life Theme:** The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health will contribute up to \$1,000,000 for research involving Aboriginal Peoples with dementia and their caregivers. Furthermore, IAPH will fund projects utilizing either Aboriginal Ways of Knowing or Two Eyed Seeing as a means to improve quality of life for individuals and their caregivers. Given the nature of Aboriginal ways of knowing, the Institute encourages applicants to include an Aboriginal researcher on the team.

### How can I be part of the CCNA?

CIHR has put in place a number of engagement activities to ensure interested researchers and partners have the opportunity to signal their interest in participating in the CCNA.

- Expression of Interest – deadline May 21st, 2013
- Partners' Forum – August 28-29, 2013 in Montreal
- Online tools for researchers to signal their interest in participating

The deadline for submission of the full application will be December 2nd, 2013. Funding is expected to start in April, 2014.

For more information about the CCNA, please contact Michelle Peel.

# New IAPH Staff Member



**Jeff LaPlante**  
**Institute Project Officer**  
**CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, Burnaby**

On March 1st, IAPH welcomed a new team member in the Burnaby office.

Jeff is of Métis (Anishinaabe/French) descent and is originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he worked in a variety of

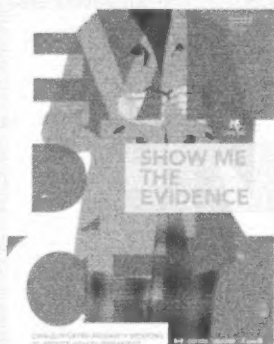
capacities for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs for several years, ultimately as the Regional Coordinator for the First

Nations Longitudinal Regional Health Survey before moving to British Columbia in 2009.

Jeff comes to CIHR-IAPH from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, where he worked as a Project Development Officer with the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy. Jeff spends his free time playing music, enjoying the outdoors, watching films, and exploring restaurants.

## Show me the Evidence

CIHR is pleased to inform you that the fourth issue of *Show me the Evidence* is now available on the CIHR website. *Show me the Evidence* provides details of how and where findings by CIHR-supported researchers are being used. Each issue focuses on research priorities outlined in CIHR's strategic plan, *Health Research Roadmap: Creating innovative research for better health and health care*. This issue of *Show me the Evidence* focuses on health research that aims to reduce health inequities.



Of interest to the IAPH community is a [feature on the work of Dr. Ann Macaulay \(McGill U\)](#) on diabetes prevention projects in Indigenous communities: *A Community Effort: Proving the Power of Participatory Research - Diabetes prevention project succeeds when community and researchers work as equal partner*.

Questions or feedback about this publication, can be sent to [publications@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:publications@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).

## More Funding Opportunities Coming Soon!

Keep your eyes open for the next launch of the Open Operating Grant competitions happening in June. IAPH will be holding another round of Priority Announcements in *Two-Eyed Seeing* and *Aboriginal Ways of Knowing* as well as for research within our mandate.

## Don't forget to apply!

### Travel Awards - Institute Community Support

Institute Community Support grants in the form of Travel Awards were launched this month. Trainees (master's and doctoral students, and post-doctoral fellows), New Investigators and Knowledge Users, including community-based researchers are encouraged to apply to this funding opportunity if they are traveling to attend a conference related to the mandate of IAPH within 9 months of the application deadline (May 27, 2013). Applicants from Northern areas or traveling to international events can receive up to \$2,500 to help pay their costs of attending. Don't miss out! [Submit your application today!](#)

CIHR News

The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health fosters the advancement of a national health research agenda to improve and promote the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada, through research, knowledge translation and capacity building. The Institute's pursuit of research excellence is enhanced by respect for community research priorities and Indigenous knowledge, values and cultures.

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